

VZCZCXRO7039
PP RUEHGR
DE RUEHWN #0785 1662012
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 152012Z JUN 07
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4945
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1760
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J5 MIAMI FL
RUEHCV/USDAO CARACAS VE

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 000785

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD
STATE FOR PM/DDTC FOR BLUE LANTERN COORDINATOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ETTC](#) [KOMC](#) [BB](#) [XL](#)
SUBJECT: BARBADOS - BLUE LANTERN: RESPONSE FROM RBPF ON
LICENSE 05-050018615

REF: 06 BRIDGETOWN 2136

1. (SBU) Post has received an interim reply from the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF), responding to the Embassy's February 8, 2007, request for information concerning the application by Sports Imports to import ten (10) Remington 700 rifles.

2. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT:

June 12, 2007

Mr. Christopher Reynolds
Second Secretary
US Embassy
Bridgetown

Dear Sir

Importation of Firearms

I refer to your letter of February 8, 2007 concerning an application by Sports Imports to import ten (10) Remington 700 7.62x51 (1.308) calibre rifles.

The Royal Barbados Police Force is currently investigating this matter. Preliminary finding indicate that permission was granted by a letter signed by Inspector Harewood for the importation of the mentioned firearms.

However, the nature of further correspondence to Inspector Harewood from Sports Imports necessitated further inquiry. The circumstances are being examined in the ongoing investigation.

Meanwhile, there is no valid import license for the importation of these firearms.

The investigation is at an advanced stage and is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of our Firearms Act.

You would be informed in due course of our findings.

Yours faithfully

Darwin Dottin
Commissioner of Police

(signed)

END TEXT

Background

13. (SBU) When PolOff called Inspector Harewood initially, he confirmed the letter he signed and stated that Sports Imports had permission to import the 10 rifles. At the request of PM/DDTC, PolOff followed up with Harewood, who works in the Commissioner Dottin's office and is the one person at the RBPF that can issue import licenses, to obtain enduser information for the weapons. PolOff also called the procurement officers at both the RBPF and the Royal Barbados Defence Force, both of whom stated that they were not importing these weapons. When PolOff called Harewood again to ask for enduser information, he referred PolOff to the Commissioner himself. Commissioner Dottin asked that the Embassy put its request for clarification of the discrepancy in writing, which the Embassy did with its February 8 letter.

14. (SBU) COMMENT: It is encouraging that Dottin is taking this matter seriously. It would appear that Inspector Harewood did indeed grant permission for the rifles to be imported into Barbados without obtaining all the enduser information he should have gathered.
GILROY